

**The State Bar of California  
Council on Access & Fairness  
2007**

*Member Background Summaries*

**Ina Bendich**

Director of the Law Academy program at EXCEL High School in Oakland, Bendich is a public member of the council. She also is a member of the board of directors of the California Youth Court Association. Bendich has served on the board of the former Center for Youth Development Through Law in collaboration with Boalt Hall, has led Mock Trial teams and has been involved with a number of mentoring and intern programs.

**Angela Bradstreet**

Bradstreet is managing partner and employment law specialist at Carroll, Burdick & McDonough LLP in San Francisco and was named one of the top 75 female litigators in California in 2005. She is an employment law specialist. She is a former president of the Bar Association of San Francisco, California Women Lawyers and the Queen's Bench Bar Association and is the creator of the No Glass Ceiling Initiative that has been endorsed by more than 90 law firms and corporate legal departments.

**Donna Clay-Conti**

Clay-Conti is senior attorney with the Judicial Council of California in San Francisco. She acts as lead staff counsel to the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee and provides guidance on racial, ethnic, disability and sexual orientation fairness as well as advice on matters of women of color and education. She was a member of the State Bar Diversity Pipeline Task Force.

**Therese Cannon**

A former member of the State Bar Committee on Women in the Law, Cannon is associate director of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. She was dean of the John F. Kennedy University School of Law and associate dean of the San Francisco State University College of Extended Learning, where she focused on recruitment, retention and support for diverse students.

**Patricia Cowett**

Cowett is a Superior Court judge in San Diego who was a member of the State Bar Diversity Pipeline Task Force. Past presiding judge of the San Diego Municipal Court, she has served on the Judicial Access and Fairness Committee and the Center for Judicial Education and Research.

**Kinna Crocker**

Crocker works in the Law Offices of Patricia Lynne Nelson in Sacramento, a family law office dedicated to serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population. She served on the State Bar's Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Discrimination.

**Cynthia Faatz**

Faatz is a senior manager and patent attorney with Intel Corporation in Santa Clara. She was a member of the State Bar Diversity Pipeline Task Force and has served as chair of the Diversity Management Review Committee of Intel's Legal and Corporate Affairs Department.

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**1stAdd/DiversityPanelBios**

**Rodney Fong**

Fong is assistant dean for bar exam services at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco. Former program developer for the Center for Access and Fairness at the State Bar, Fong served on the State Bar Diversity Pipeline Task Force. He is a member of the Asian American Bar Association and the Bar Association of San Francisco Diversity Task Force.

**Stuart Forsyth**

Forsyth is executive director of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and a principal with The Legal Futurist in Pasadena, a strategic planning services company for the legal profession. He has worked for state bars in both Arizona and California.

**Brenda Harbin-Forte (Council Chair)**

Harbin-Forte is presiding superior court judge of the Juvenile Court of Alameda County. She served on the Oakland-Piedmont-Emeryville Municipal Court from 1992-98. Harbin-Forte was chair of the Courts Working Group of the State Bar Diversity Pipeline Task Force and organized the State Bar Judicial Summit. She is past president of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Northern California.

**Eve Hill**

Hill is executive director of the Disability Rights Legal Center at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. She is former chair of the State Bar Committee on Legal Professionals with Disabilities and has served on the board of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles. She also teaches disability rights law.

**Craig Holden**

Craig Holden is of counsel at Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi in Los Angeles. Co-chair of the State Bar Diversity Coalition, Holden conducted extensive research for diversity data and statistics for Diversity Pipeline presentations and presented numerous programs for the task force.

**Marina Hsieh**

Hsieh is assistant dean for academic and professional development at Santa Clara University School of Law. She is a public member of the council. She has been a national board member of the American Civil Liberties Union and has been on the governing board of the Society of American Law Teachers.

**Dustin Johnson**

Johnson is a criminal defense attorney with Perry & Associates in Modesto. He has been a member of the Ethnic Minority Relations Committee of the State Bar and an Access & Fairness Leadership Academy Scholar.

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Add/DiversityPanel Bios**

### **Linda McCulloh**

McCulloh is a senior attorney in the Education Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco, where she works on access and fairness programs. She teaches programs on the Americans with Disabilities Act and reasonable accommodations. She was a member of the State Bar Committee on Legal Professionals with Disabilities.

### **Michael Nava**

Nava is an author and judicial staff attorney for Associate California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno in San Francisco. He participated in the State Bar Diversity Summit, is a member of the San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association and also speaks out on gay rights.

### **Tina Rasnow**

Rasnow is coordinator of the Ventura County Superior Court's Self-Help Legal Access Center and Homeless Court programs. She is immediate past chair of the State Bar Standing Committee on Delivery of Legal Services.

### **Sarah Redfield**

Redfield, a public member, is a professor at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. She coordinates work in education law and policy at the local, state and national level and was a member of the State Bar Diversity Pipeline Task Force. She has coordinated the national law school pipeline project.

### **Edwin Reeser**

Reeser is managing partner of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal's Los Angeles office. He received a firmwide diversity award as "an agent of change" that has resulted in having 60 percent diversity associates, 20 percent diversity partners and 40 percent women.

### **Luis Rodriguez (Council Vice-Chair):**

Rodriguez is special counsel to the Los Angeles County Public Defender and is responsible for recruitment, hiring and training of law clerks. He is past president of California La Raza Lawyers Association, the Los Angeles County Mexican American Bar Association and the Latino Public Defenders Association. He served on the California Board of Education.

### **Russell Roeca**

Roeca is a founding partner of Roeca Haas Hager LLP in San Francisco. A former member of the State Bar's board of governors, Roeca was the board's liaison to Access and Fairness Committees. He is current treasurer of the Bar Association of San Francisco and serves on the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom and the Minority Bar Coalition.

### **Maria del Carmen Sigler**

Sigler, a public member, is provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State University at San Jose. She served as dean of the university's College of Humanities and the Arts

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Add/DiversityPanelBios**

and has taught in the Department of Foreign Languages. She also has been involved in outreach programs to secondary schools and community colleges.

#### **Anthony Solana**

Solana, who works in commercial litigation at Winston & Strawn in Los Angeles, is president and chair of For People of Color, Inc., a nonprofit organization mentoring students of color who want to become lawyers. He provides law school admission and bar exam prep workshops, support programs and resources.

#### **Richard Tom**

Tom is a senior attorney and manager in the Environmental, Property and Local Governance Section of the Southern California Edison Law Department in Rosemead, where he has played a leadership role in diversity hiring and pipeline programs.

#### **Fumiko Wasserman:**

Wasserman, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, served on the State Bar Diversity Pipeline Task Force and helped plan the first Diversity Summit. She also has served on diversity-related task forces and committees for the Judicial Council and taught diversity curriculum for the Center for Judicial Education and Research.

#### **Leah Williams:**

Williams, a public member, is chief executive officer of Strategies, a San Francisco public affairs, media and policy consulting firm (women and minority-owned) that works with corporations, educational institutions, government agencies, non-profit agencies, and foundations. Williams is former executive director of the Barristers Club of San Francisco.

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